

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appln. No: To Be Assigned  
Applicant: Koji SAKAI, et al.  
Filed: March 26, 2004  
Title: FOLDING MECHANISM AND ELECTRONIC APPARATUS USING THE SAME  
TC/A.U.: To Be Assigned  
Examiner: To Be Assigned  
Confirmation No.: To Be Assigned  
Docket No.: MAT-8524US

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (RP) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

The following Japanese reference is not in the English language:

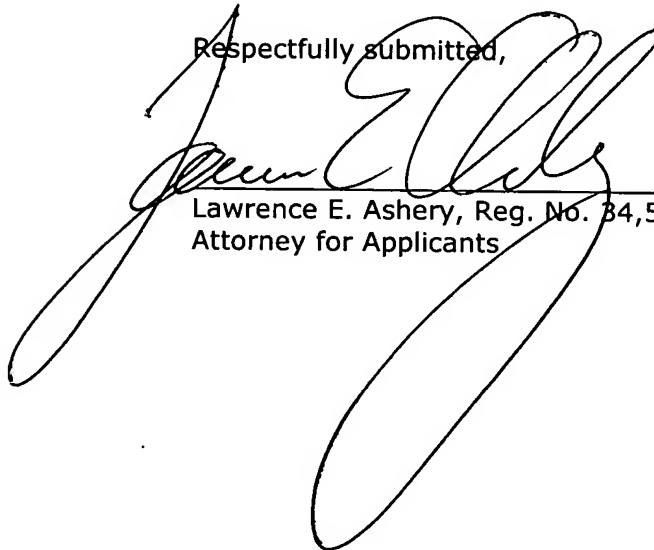
1) 2002-209000

Reference 1) includes an English language abstract and a "concise explanation" under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3) is also set forth in the specification.



This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515  
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/dmw

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449  
Copy of (1) Reference

Dated: March 26, 2004

P.O. Box 980  
Valley Forge, PA 19482  
610-407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby  
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I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

<b>Application Number</b>	To Be Assigned
<b>Filing Date</b>	March 26, 2004
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Koji SAKAI, et al.
<b>Art Unit</b>	To Be Assigned
<b>Examiner Name</b>	To Be Assigned
<b>Attorney Docket No.</b>	MAT-8524US

**SHEET 1 of 1**

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (If known)				
		JP 2002-209000 A (with English abstract)	07/26/2002	Matsushita Electric Ind Co Ltd	Entire Document	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>
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						<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>
Examiner Signature				Date Considered		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

<sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3).

<sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated in the WIPO Standard ST.3.

<sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST 16 if possible

<sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

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The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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